

# Dissonant Voices

## Teaching Untaught Histories

National Park Service  
U. S. Department of Interior  
Golden Gate  
National Recreation Area



### Institute Description and Resources

Our 3 day institute will introduce and/or acquaint you with place-based and inquiry learning in national parks. Our goal is to provide you with practical and useful ideas for implementing Social Studies field-based education through learning activities and research or service projects.

Our institute is framed by the essential question “What’s at stake when we teach untaught histories?” We have chosen topics rooted in GGNRA, Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, and the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, and emblematic of larger social issues. You and your colleagues will have the opportunity to consider national events and issues within a local perspective. The institute will be held at Building 640 Presidio of San Francisco and Hyde Street Pier.

### Day 1

Building 640  
National Japanese  
American Historical  
Society

### Setting the Stage Untaught Histories Meet Placed-Based Historic Inquiry

#### What’s at stake when we teach untaught histories?

Milton Reynolds, Senior Program Associate, Facing Ourselves and History, sets the stage with an explanation of the scope and sequence of themes Facing Ourselves and History uses to frame and excavate history. He will pay particular attention to issues of justice and judgment and historical memory. He will do a short, interactive introduction to the history of eugenics in America. This often untaught history will be useful in making the linkages between many of the histories we’ll investigate during the week and will prove helpful in elucidating the ideology that has shaped our past and continues to be relevant to our present and future.

#### Executive Order 9066—Confining Neighbors and Citizens

##### What will we do next time?

The justification for the issuance of Executive Order 9066 was to protect the nation against espionage and sabotage. The Order was enforced by congressional passage of Public Law 503, which authorized the military to designate areas from which they could exclude any person. General John L. DeWitt, commanding general of the Western Defense Command at the Presidio of San Francisco, enthusiastically embraced this authority through a lens of racism and paranoia. On the West Coast in particular, Americans of Japanese and Italian ancestry immediately came under suspicion, facing an unconstitutional continuum from the confiscation of their property to the loss of civil liberties to physical incarceration.

Join in thought-provoking discussions about fear, intolerance, and civil liberties in the context of war and community dislocation.

#### Potentially Dangerous—Una Storia Segreta

As Joe DiMaggio, after his record-breaking 1941 season, reigned as America’s crown prince of baseball, his immigrant father was unable to fish or even visit Joe’s restaurant on San Francisco’s Fisherman’s Wharf. He was not alone: 600,000 Italian Americans were branded as ‘enemy aliens’ with the outbreak of World War II. Over 10,000 were forced to move from their homes in West Coast prohibited zones, while another 52,000 were subjected to dusk-to-dawn curfews. San Francisco stood at the center of these largely unknown restrictions imposed by the US government. Una Storia Segreta, as noted author Lawrence DiStasi tells us, means both a secret story and a secret history. He will share with us the “secret shame of those who suffered the wartime restrictions, and the dirty little secret of those who imposed them.”

Building 640 National Japanese American Historical Society	<p>In Times of Uncertainty—Japanese Americans As The Other</p> <p>General DeWitt issued allegations that 1. Espionage and sabotage were being conducted by Japanese Americans, 2. The government could not distinguish the loyal from disloyal, and therefore, 3. There was a military necessity for the mass removal and incarceration of all persons of Japanese ancestry. All those possessing 1/16th or more Japanese blood were ordered imprisoned. This was twice the Nazi’s definition of 1/8th to determine who was a Jew. Rosalyn Tonai of the National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) presents perspectives on the Japanese American experience during the incarceration. Grace Morizawa (NJAHS) and Nancy Caplan (NPS) bring primary materials and provocative curriculum suggestions for your classroom. Stephen Haller (NPS) provides the context of the Military Intelligence School at the Presidio where Japanese Americans trained for special US Army assignments.</p>
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Day 2  
  
San Francisco Maritime  
National Historical Park

<p>Port Chicago—1944 Naval Mutiny</p> <p><b>Why are only the Black sailors doing this dangerous work?</b></p> <p>On July 17, 1944 an explosion rocked Port Chicago, killing 320 African American sailors who were loading ships with weapons and ammunition under unsafe conditions. Three weeks later, African American sailors at nearby Mare Island Naval Yard refused to report to their duty station because the safety concerns had not been addressed. Fifty sailors were charged and found guilty of mutiny. Thurgood Marshall, future Justice of the US Supreme Court, came right to the point - “Why are only Black sailors doing this dangerous work?” NPS Ranger Raphael Allen discusses how this important court martial set in motion a new struggle for civil rights and the desegregation of the US Navy.</p> <p>Race and Liability—The Sinking of the Rio de Janeiro, 1901</p> <p><b>How do you calculate the value of a life?</b></p> <p>On the morning of February 22, 1901, the Pacific Mail Steamer Rio de Janeiro was feeling her way toward San Francisco in zero visibility. Within minutes of scrapping the rocks, the ship went down with 128 lives lost in the worst maritime disaster off San Francisco’s shores. Among the passengers was Rounsevelle Wildman, American Counsel in Hong Kong, on his way to catch a train to President McKinley’s Inaugural Ball. Lost also was an experienced Chinese crew that for years had served the run from San Francisco to Japan and China. When the survivors and family went to court to sue the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, they found a sympathetic audience. What was the damning evidence? NPS Nicole Jung-Alexander, Linda Shatto, and Lynn Fonfa take us back.</p> <p>Wind in the Rigging: The Voices of Maritime Women</p> <p><b>How does the narrative shift with women’s perspectives?</b></p> <p>Listen carefully as the wind sets the rigging to humming and singing. Usually the voices we focus on and hear belong to the men who, for centuries, dominated the maritime experience and left behind their stories. But women have sailed disguised as men, crewed alongside men as independent women, and set sail with male relatives, often taking over their assigned tasks. During the 20th century, a crew of female adventurers earned a more visible place in our maritime world. Join Diane Cooper, Historian at the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park, as we plot the voyages, words, and deeds of these maritime women.</p> <p>On the Line—Maritime Labor Joins the Civil Rights Struggle</p> <p><b>Which side are you on?</b></p> <p>When is the workplace a venue for civil rights struggles? What role have labor unions played in the movement for racial equality? Robin Walker, Librarian/Archivist for the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, shows how one union’s struggle to improve working conditions for workers under the motto “An Injury to One is An Injury to All,” formulated a compelling commitment to racial equality that impacted the Civil Rights Movement in the Bay Area and beyond.</p>
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Day 3  
Building 640  
National Japanese  
American Historical  
Society

From the Azores to Marin—the Portuguese Dairy Farmers

How do people choose a new home?

The Milkshed of Marin County traces its roots to the Azores Islands, an archipelago of 8 rural islands west of Iberian Portugal. Azorean men, escaping forced enlistment into the British army, joined Yankee whaling vessels headed for Gold Rush San Francisco. Jumping ship to anonymous Marin County, they leased land, established highly-productive dairy ranches, and when their families joined them shortly after, continued the Azorean community and cultural traditions still with us today. Here also lies the 20th century story of the national disappearance of family farms and the growth of a strong dairy industry. Elaine Elinson, author of *Wherever There’s a Fight*, a history of struggles for civil liberties in California, relates this untold narrative of how politics, tradition, and social relationships shape the changing dairy landscape.

Walking Sideways Through History—Archeology as Methodology

How can archeology enrich my understanding of place?

Is a sewer ever just a sewer? Archeologists bring a particular lens to historical methods, revealing the interplay between people, culture, and place with equal parts of painstaking investigation and vivid imagination. How does the intersection of archeology and environmental history help us understand how and why we manage cultural landscapes? Follow Leo Barker, Park Archeologist, below and above in a new perspective at Crissy Field and the gun emplacements along the Presidio bluffs.

Closing Session

Milton Reynolds facilitates the closing session with a deeper exploration of the concept of transitional justice in relationship to the histories we uncovered during our 3 days together. He will demonstrate how historic inquiry and issues-based teaching can provoke students to pose meaningful questions, apply critical thinking skills, and build their own interpretations of local, national, and international events.